

14 December 2023

Submitter:



Greater Wellington Natural Resources Plan Change 1

Change the word resource to taonga. My council would see resource as something developers can do what they like with. Something to be used for financial gain.

Add mauri to restoring. We are restoring the mauri of the water. The life energy.

Page 15. The year 2050 is considered a reasonable date in the absence of any other. The water systems don't have that long. What are we doing that takes 27 years to achieve.

Page 16. Aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives. That fish communities are resilient. (That's too passive. That they were forced to survive under extreme circumstances or flourishing in their natural environment. Resilience would suggest you could force them to live in extremities of survival.

Page 18 in reference to Wetlands Flora and Fauna. So my question is. If a wetland exists but was killed by human hands and tools. Are we still intent on restoring the mauri of the wetland or is it considered dead. Is the measure from today or what we know of Wetlands given how much we have destroyed then deemed too dead to restore.

If that is the intention as I read the subsequent pages then I support this. I want to feel assured that restoration includes what we know of the ecosystem of the water systems and all life in and around and not measure it from the date that humans destroyed.

4.6 Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Hydrology

- a) Love it
- b) *Improve the mauri of the water (add mauri for it is living – we are water)*

Page 42 Rule R104: Vegetation clearance on erosion prone land – permitted activity. Only querying because I understood that the roots of vegetation held land together.

I would like to also add that the people of Upper Hutt have been cut off from connection to the river. Firstly, by a highway and now by a protective medium barrier. When I say people. The reply is that the awa is still accessible. It isn't to everyone.

We should also consider our Regional Emergency Plan when thinking water. When I was a kid we never carried water anywhere including bushwalks and up mountains. Why? Because you could drink any water anywhere. I always included our waterways in my civil emergency planning. Sadly, that is now not the case. The intention to restore the mauri of the river should include being able to drink any water from anywhere.

IF there's a hole in the bucket (existing infrastructure) then why haven't we called a national emergency and ceased all builds effectively immediately and insist on a redesign.

Thousands live in small homes in the form of tiny houses and mobile homes using minimal water. It is possible. Sadly, it doesn't line the wallets of Councils, developers, insurance companies or banks.

Run out of time so I will submit what I have. I am keen to submit in person. To those who worked on this there is a lot to like about it. I worry that it is all the right words with a very long drawn out action plan. Meanwhile Te Awakairangi and our Peatland dies along with the tributaries.